MW capacity, in Karnataka which is under construction since 1987, is held up on account of some pending environmental issues; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Sharavati Tail Race Project in Karnataka was accorded environmental and forestry clearance in March, 1987 and September, 1986 respectively with certain conditions. Subsequently, a case was filed in the High Court of Karnataka by the local people and environmental groups against the project. The Court ordered review of the clearances given by the Ministry within three months. On a review of the case it was decided to seek six months extension so that response is filed with the High Court by November, 1991. Meanwhile, compliance status of the stipulated conditions is awaited from the project authorities.

Representation by Karnataka Government for increase in Rate of Interest on Small Savings

1117. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka Government has made a representation for increasing the rate of interest on small savings; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Karnataka Government has made a general suggestion for an increase in the interest rates on small savings schemes.

Creation of Office of Environment Manager

1118. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation to make it mandatory for companies to create the office of environment manager; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration. It is also being examined whether it should be mandatory or recommendatory.

Devastation of Villages inhabited by SC in West Bengal

1119. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem which appeared in the Times of India, New Delhi of the 9th August, 1991 caption 'Innocent victims of Bengal politics' wherein it has been stated that half a dozen villages inhabited by Scheduled Castes were devastated;

(b) if so what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have directed the Government of West Bengal to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.